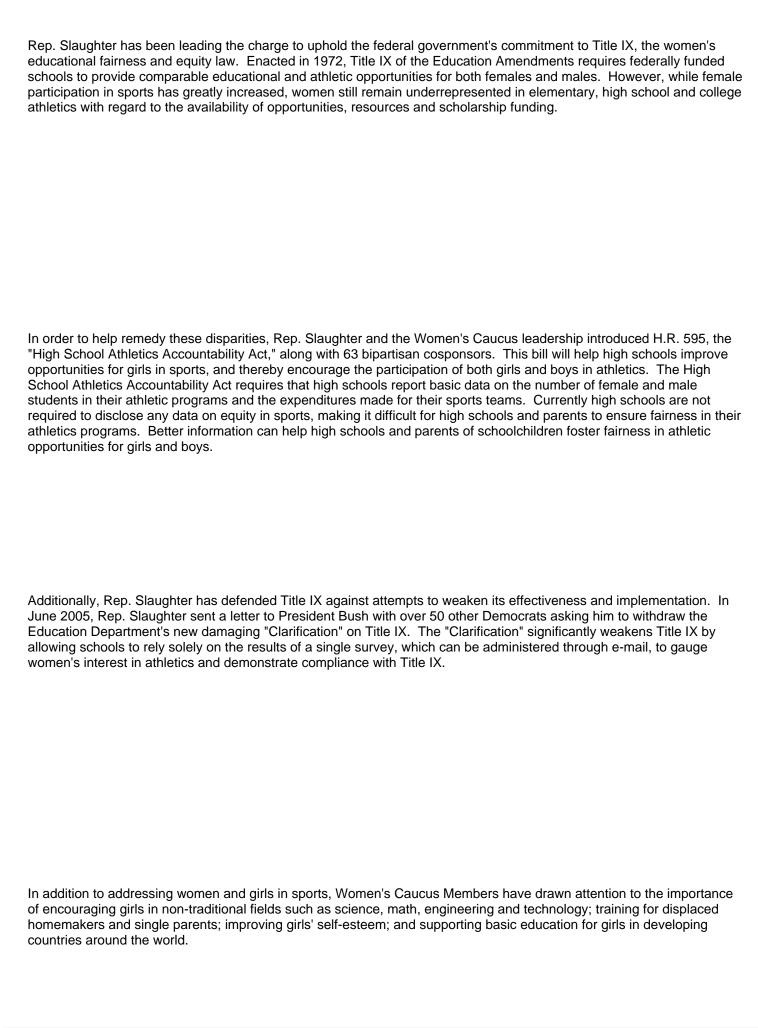

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Women's Issues
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Representative Louise Slaughter is an outspoken national champion of women's rights. As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues ("Women's Caucus") for the 108th Congress, which has worked to improve women's lives since 1977, Rep. Slaughter has spearheaded bills in Congress to address the sexual assault of women in the military and the promotion of equal opportunity under Title IX. She constantly fights for the equality and rights of women, calling for awareness and action both in the U.S. and abroad.
Below you will find further information regarding Rep. Slaughter's efforts for women.
International Women's Issues

Rep. Slaughter and Women's Caucus Members have worked hard to draw attention to and eliminate violations of basic human rights of women and children throughout the globe. During the 108th Congress, they have worked on many significant issues affecting international women's human rights, such as female genital mutilation, child marriage, trafficking in women and girls, women and HIV/AIDS, maternal mortality, women and hunger, basic education for girls, and violence against women.

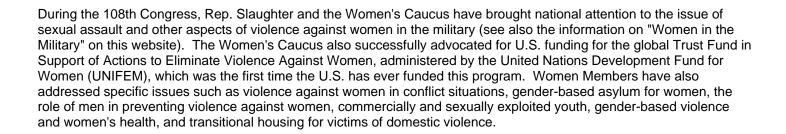
Women's Caucus Members have particularly highlighted the importance of supporting equality for women in Iraq and Afghanistan, two countries on the forefront of U.S. foreign policy during the 108th Congress through briefings, meetings, letters and legislation including "The Iraqi Women and Children's Liberation Act." This bill will inspire Iraqi women with the tools needed to empower themselves with political participation, reduce maternal and infant mortality, advance girls education, reduce poverty, and sustain democracy for themselves and their children. Almost twice as many men as women in Iraq are literate; the maternal mortality rate is 35 times higher than in the United States; and one in eight children dies before the age of five because of inadequate health care. In Afghanistan, girls' schools have been violently attacked and burned down; threats have been made against women working and taking off the burqa and girls attending school; and there are numerous reports of violence against women, including sexual assault and rape. One of the best ways for the U. S. to ensure the legacy of democracy in Iraq and Afghanistan is by helping these countries invest in their women and children.

Bipartisan efforts by Women's Caucus Members have lead to successes in increased funding levels in the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for programs supporting women and girls overseas, such as the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, http://www.unifem.org/). UNIFEM supports innovative programs promoting women's basic human rights and status throughout more than 100 countries. The agency works in partnership with UN organizations, governments and NGOs to reduce women's poverty, end violence against women, halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, and support women's roles in conflict prevention and reconstruction efforts. UNIFEM projects promote peace and stability on the ground in many areas of strategic interest to the U.S., such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Columbia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the former Soviet Union. Helping to pave the way from conflict to constitution in Iraq, the organization has supported organizations advocating for women's political rights and





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Violence Against Women
Since its inception, the Women's Caucus has focused on the elimination of violence against women and has supported programs to assist victims of violence. The epidemic of violence against women in the United States and around the world remains significant, and Women's Caucus Members have urged Congress to commit more resources to help eliminate this problem and provide assistance to survivors. Nearly one-third of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives. Recent reports of assaults on women in the military and by collage athletes on female students indicate that this problem is still rampant. Around the world, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime.
Rep. Slaughter commemorated the 10th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act in 2004 by releasing a new CRS report on the benefits brought about by this law as well as the problems that still need to be addressed. In conjunction with Lifetime TV for Women, the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues participated in the annual Stop Violence Against Women Week in March, including briefings, special orders, public service announcements and other initiatives to highlight the importance of bringing an end to violence against women.



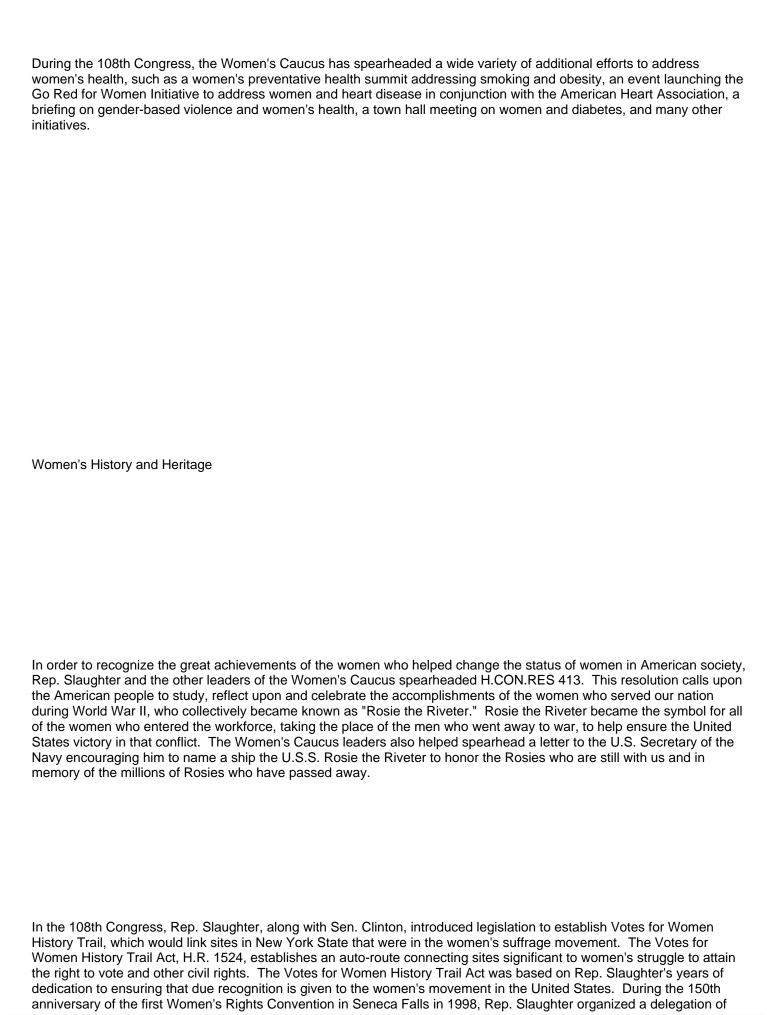
Women in the Workplace, Business, and the Economy

Rep. Slaughter has led Women's Caucus Members in the 108th Congress in raising issues of concern to women in the workplace and women small business owners. For example, they have highlighted the law that Congress passed in 1996 setting a goal of 5% for women and minority- owned businesses in all government contracts. While few agencies meet or exceed the contracting goals, the Department of Defense (DOD) has been one of the worst offenders. In May of 2003, Rep. Slaughter and several other women Members from both parties met with the DOD Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization at the Department to discuss the \$200 billion contract awarded to Lockheed Martin to build the Joint Strike Fighter. Of that \$200 billion dollar contract, only \$1.1 million in contracts had gone to women small business owners. At the meeting, women Members helped the Department develop a strategy for reaching out to and contracting with women-owned businesses (either through primes or subcontracts), and to encourage Lockheed Martin to subcontract out to women-owned businesses on the Joint Strike Fighter to meet or exceed the 5% goal. Members of the Women's Caucus participated in an additional meeting in July 2004 to discuss the progress that the Department was making to ensure equity in contracting opportunities. The Members also requested that representatives from Lockheed Martin and Pratt and Whitney discuss their plans to meet the congressionally mandated 5% contracting goal.

Rep. Slaughter and Members of the Women's Caucus have also highlighted other issues affecting working women throughout the 108th Congress, such as the need for improved child care, preschool and after school care for children, diversity in the workforce, career training for displaced homemakers and single parents, the glass ceiling and the gender gap in wages, employment issues faced by women with disabilities, balancing work and family, supporting Women's Business Centers, and addressing gender disparities in the fields of math, science, engineering and technology.

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Women in the Military
Rep. Slaughter and the Women's Caucus have made significant progress in drawing national attention to the problem of sexual assault of women in the military, which has been a primary concern of the caucus during the 108th Congress. In March, 2004, the Congresswoman led a hearing on this issue and presented a report containing the transcript of the hearing to U.S. Department of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Following the hearing, on May, 2004, the U.S. House unanimously passed an amendment championed by Rep. Slaughter that would require the Pentagon to develop a comprehensive and uniform policy to prevent and respond to sexual assault of women in the military. The Women's Caucus has also focused on the issue of domestic violence within the U.S. military by working with the Department of Defense to find appropriate mechanisms to prevent and respond to this problem. In addition, Rep. Slaughter is working to develop comprehensive legislation addressing multifaceted aspects of both sexual assault and domestic violence within the military in order to ensure that women are not subject to violence and assault by members of the U.S. Armed Forces.
The Women's Caucus also supports women serving our nation in the military by honoring distinguished women officers serving in each of the five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces at a ceremony for them before Memorial Day each year.

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter
Women's Health
As an outspoken supporter of increased efforts in women's health research and services, Rep. Slaughter has worked throughout her entire career in Congress to educate her colleagues, women, and the public at large about the importance of these issues and to craft legislative initiatives to improve women's health. She has highlighted women's health priorities through the Women's Caucus as Co-Chair in the 108th Congress, Vice-Chair in the 107th Congress and as leader of the Women's Caucus Health Task Force during the 106th Congress.
Rep. Slaughter's activities on women's health during her tenure as Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus in the 108th Congress have focused on a broad range of issues including breast cancer research, genetic nondiscrimination, advocacy and education, female genital mutilation, and women's environmental health. For example, based on emerging research on the potential impact of environmental estrogens and other factors on women's health, Rep. Slaughter has authored H.R. 852, the Environmental Health Research Act. This bill accomplishes two goals. It funds six multidisciplinary centers of excellence through the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to study women's health and disease prevention. It also increases funding to NIEHS specifically to study the effects of environmental toxins on endocrine development and hormone disruption. The research programs authorized through this legislation will enable NIEHS to gather solid data about the dangers posed by some chemicals and the mechanisms through which they act. With this information in hand, policymakers can make sensible, informed decisions and policies about women's health and well-being.



current and former women Members of Congress to participate in these and related events in Rochester, NY. She served as an active facilitator and advisor in planning the Seneca Falls 150th anniversary events, and joined First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton on the stage to speak during the celebration's inaugural ceremonies.

In the 106th Congress, Rep. Slaughter secured funding for the National Park Service to study the establishment of such a trail, with a significant portion of the network located in the Western New York area. The network would link a variety of sites important to women's history, such as the Women's Rights National Historical Park, the Susan B. Anthony House, and the Harriet Tubman House. In July 2000, Rep. Slaughter was honored to be elected Chair of the Women's Progress Commemoration Commission (WPCC), a body created by legislation she had previously authored and successfully passed through Congress in 1998. In 2001, during the events commemorating the 153rd anniversary of the First Women's Rights Convention, Rep. Slaughter was proud to release the final report and recommendations of the WPCC at the Women's Rights National Historic Park in Seneca Falls, NY. This report outlined seven important steps that can be taken to preserve sites important to women's history. To review a copy of the report, please visit: http://www.nps.gov/wori/historysites.htm.

Rep. Slaughter has been involved in a number of other efforts on women's history. She spoke at the unveiling of the portrait of former Congresswoman Mary Norton (1875-1959) in its new location in Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi's office in celebration of Women's History Month in March 2004. Rep. Slaughter also actively promoted moving the historic Women's Suffrage Statue of Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton from the Capitol's basement into the Rotunda and delivered a speech at the celebration marking the placement of the monument in the Rotunda.